

MT WIC Estimated Eligible Participation

The Montana WIC Program worked with the Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support to determine “MT WIC Estimated Eligible Participation”. This project focuses on enabling the state WIC staff to work collaboratively with local WIC staff to narrow the gap between the number of eligible clients in each county and the number of clients who actually participate in the WIC program.

1. What is the purpose of the “MT WIC Estimated Eligible Participation” project?

The purpose of this project is to estimate the number of eligible WIC participants by category on county and state levels.

2. Why was the “MT WIC Estimated Eligible participation” project developed?

Few of the reasons this project was developed are to:

- Increase understanding of the estimated number of eligible clients in the state.
- Measure and evaluate each county’s program participation in relation to the estimated number of eligible clients.
- Identify areas in the state that are currently underserved, i.e., where participation rates compared to estimated eligible clients fall below the average percentage for similar counties and for the state as a whole.
- Project areas of the state where the number of estimated eligible clients is increasing.
- Provide local WIC coordinators with information they can use to manage caseload within their own geographic areas.
- Increase consistency in implementing caseload distribution from year to year.
- Improve anticipation of changes in demand based on estimated need.

3. What information can we get from the “MT WIC Estimated Eligible participation” project?

The WIC estimation model is based on several criteria:

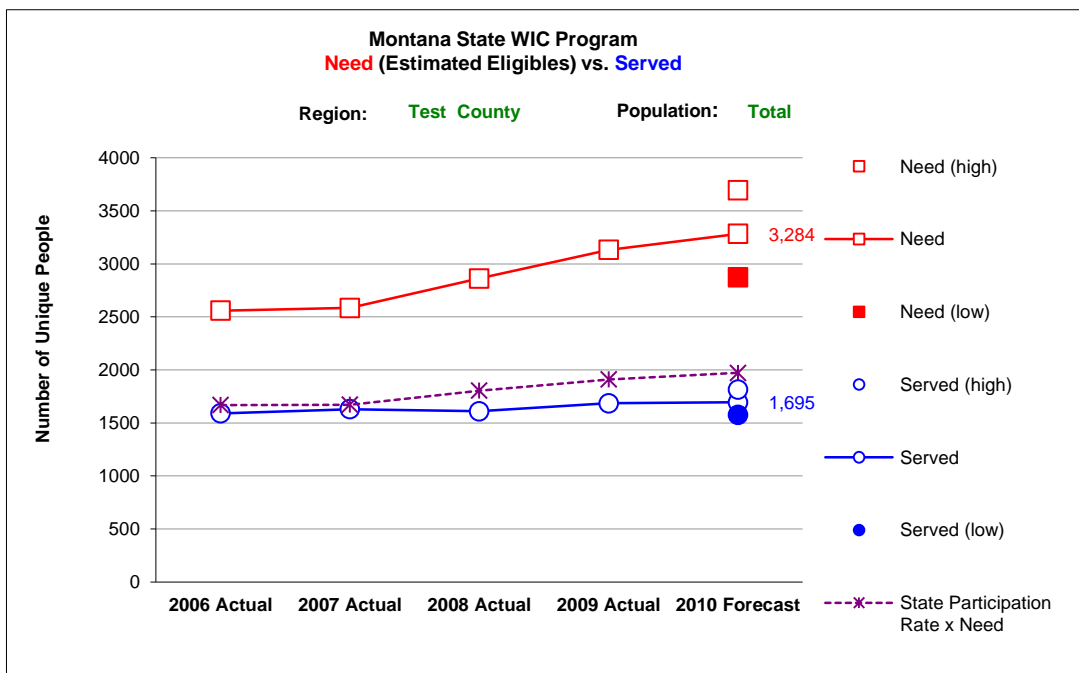
- Poverty level.
- Births and children population counts and estimates.
- Adjunctive eligibility such as Medicaid.
- Adjunctive monthly versus yearly income.
- WIC participation.

The model projects the following information:

- Estimated number and percent of WIC eligibles, calendar years: 2006 through 2010, with preliminary estimates for 2011.
- Estimates for each county, by WIC participant category: infants, children, pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, total participants and total women participants.

4. Can I see an example of county level results?

This is for demonstration purposes only, not true data! These charts are available for each WIC participant category.



Estimated Eligible WIC Participants for Test County, CY 2009-2010							
WIC participant group	# of participants CY2009	# of est. eligibles CY2009	Coverage Rate CY2009	# of participants CY2010	# of est. eligibles CY2010	Coverage Rate CY2010	% difference between CY 2009 and CY2010
Infants	91	329	27.7%	75	326	23.0%	4.7%
Children	265	375	70.7%	283	553	51.2%	19.5%
Pregnant Women	40	142	28.2%	39	134	29.1%	0.9%
Breastfeeding Women	18	37	NA	20	36	55.6%	-
Postpartum Non-breastfeeding women	24	38	63.2%	27	40	67.5%	4.3%
Women	82	217	37.8%	86	210	41.0%	3.2%
Total	438	921	47.6%	444	1089	40.8%	6.8%
NA=Percentages are not computed for fewer than 20 participants for statistical reliability and stability.							

5. Where can I get the information?

If you are interested in information on WIC estimated eligibles for the county you serve, please contact Bernadette Lahr at BLahr@mt.gov .